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BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 2491

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: MASS, PE
SUBJECT: MINISTER OF WAR REQUESTS CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT

REF: LIMA 2253

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT

2. SUMMARY: PERUVIAN MINISTER OF WAR, GENERAL BRUSH, HAS AGAIN REQUESTED USG SUPPORT FOR PROCUREMENT OF EQUIPMENT FOR A NEW (THRID) ENGINEER CONSTRUCTION BATTALION. ARMY'S POSITION IS THAT WITH CURRENT EQUIPMENT INVENTORY IT CANNOT CARRY OUT MEANINGFUL CIVIC ACTION IN THE EMERGENCY ZONE, WHILE AT SAME TIME MEETING ITS RECURRING AND HEAVY DISASTER RELIEF RESPONSIBILITIES. ARMY CONSIDERS CIVIC ACTION TO BE A CRITICAL COROLLARY TO EFFORT TO DEAL MILITARILY WITH SENDERO LUMINOSO IN THE ZONE. REQUEST WASHINGTON REVIEW OF ISSUE TO DETERMINE IF ANY EQUIPMENT CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE.

3. DURING MEETING WITH CODEL MONTGOMERY ON FEBRUARY 21, PERUVIAN MINISTER OF WAR, GENERAL OSCAR BRUSH NOEL, MADE STRONG PITCH FOR USG ASSISTANCE IN PROVIDING SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT FOR ARMY (REFTEL). SINCE HE TOOK OVER AS MINISTER MORE THAN A YEAR AGO, BRUSH HAS PUT SAME OR SIMILAR REQUEST TO A VARIETY OF VISITING US OFFICIALS. ALTHOUGH MAAG HAS REPEATEDLY ADVISED PERUVIAN ARMY THAT GRANT ASSISTANCE FOR MATERIEL PROCUREMENT IS NOT AVAILABLE AND HAS PROVIDED PRICE AND AVAILABILITY DATA FOR PURCHASE OF ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT, MINISTER CONTINUES TO HELD OUT HOPE THAT USG WILL FIND WAY TO DO MORE TO HELP MEET PERUVAIN NEEDS. HE REMEMBERS FACT THAT MAJORITY OF ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT CURRENTLY IN INVENTORY WAS PROVIDED YEARS AGO UNDER THEN EXISITNG MAP PROGRAM. BRUSH GAVE CODEL MONTGOMERY FOLLOWING LIST OF SPECIFIC ITEMS PERUVIAN ARMY HLPES US CAN PROVIDE.

ITEM QUANTITY

CATERPILLAR TRACK-TYPE TRACTOR D8 16
CATERPILLAR TRACK-TYPE TRACTOR D7E 48
CATERPILLAR TRACK-TYPE TRACTOR D6 10
CATERPILLAR WHEELER TRACTOR 16

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CATERPILLAR FRONT END LOADER 32
 CATERPILLAR MOTOR GRADER 112F 32
 AIR COMPRESSOR 600 FT3 16
 PNEUMATIC HAMMERS 64
 3 CRUM - 10 TN MOTOR ROLLER 16
 WATER TANK TRUCK 2,000 GL 16
 GAS TANK TRUCK 2,000 GL 8
 OIL TANK TRUCK 2,000 GL 8
 DUMPER 5 10 TON 80
 TRAILER 25 TON 16
 OILING AND GREASING EQUIPMENT OVER TRUCK 16
 MAINTENANCE SHOP TRUCK, 4" DEGREE 5/ LIMITED STEP D02, 16
 WASHING EQUIPMENT FOR CARS 16

4. THERE IS GENERAL RECOGNITION AT ALL LEVELS OF PERUVIAN ARMY THAT AN ACTIVE CIVIC ACTION PROGRAM IS IMPORTANT TO LONG TERM SUCCESS IN DEALING WITH SENDRO LUMINOSO TERRORIST THREAT IN EMERGENCY ZONE. ARMY COMMANDING GENERAL JULIA AND ZONE COMMANDER GENERAL HUMANA HAVE COMMENTED TO US EXPLICITLY THAT GOP AS WHOLE MUST FIND WAY TO DEAL WITH UNDERLYING ALIENATION OF PEOPLE IN ZONE WHO HAVE NOT HERETOFORE BENEFITED SIGNIFICANTLY FROM GOP DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS. ARMY, IN PARTICULAR, WANTS TO TEMPER REPRESSIVE ASPECTS OF ITS COUNTER-TERRORIST EFFORT BY ENGAGING IN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. GIVEN SECURITY SITUATION IN EMERGENCY ZONE, ARMY BELIEVES IT IS BETTER PLACED TO CARRY OUT CIVIL WORKS THAN NON-MILITARY PERSONNEL. PROBLEM IS RESOURCES. ARMY'S (DETERIORATING) ENGINEER CONSTRUCTION BATTALIONS ARE FULLY OCCUPIED MEETING MILITARY CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS AND CONTRIBUTING TO DISASTER RELIEF, WHICH IN PERU IS RECURRENT IF NOT PERMANENT UNDERTAKING. TO MAKE A MEANINGFUL CIVIC ACTION EFFORT IN EMERGENCY ZONE, THEREFORE, ARMY NEEDS TO AUGMENT ITS EQUIPMENT INVENTORY. GIVEN AUSTERITY WHICH GOP IS IMPOSING IN ALL SECTORS, THERE IS LITTLE LIKELIHOOD THAT ARMY WILL BE IN POSITION TO PURCHASE SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT ON STRICTLY COMMERCIAL BASIS WITHIN NEXT FEW YEARS.

5. EMBASSY BELIEVES USG SUPPORT FOR ACQUISITION OF ADDITIONAL ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT BY PERUVIAN ARMY WOULD BE CLEARLY IN US INTEREST. WE FULLY SHARE VIEW THAT LONG TERM SOLUTION TO TERRORIST PROBLEM WILL REQUIRE AUGMENTED EFFORTS BY GOP TO DELIVER DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL SERVICES TO MOST AFFECTED REGION. DEEP SEATED ALIENATION WHICH EXISTS CANNOT BE COMBATED WITH MILITARY FORCE ALONE. AT SAME TIME, THERE ARE, FOR VARIETY OF REASONS, LIMITS TO WHAT USG CAN DO TO ASSIST PERUVIAN SECURITY FORCES IN ACTUAL COUNTERINSURGENCY EFFORT. BY CONTRAST, A US CONTRIBUTION TO AUGMENTING THE ARMY'S CIVIC ACTION CAPABILITY SHOULD NOT ENTAIL POLICY OR SECURITY RISKS AND WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL IN PROMOTING CLOSER RELATIONS WITH THE ARMY.

OGDEN

END OF MESSAGE

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